RECESSION OF SEA AT ALLEPPEY.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): I crave your indulgence for making a simple request. We hear that the sea has receded at Alleppey and that naturally stops further shipment. If any reliable information is available to Government will you kindly allow that to be placed before the Council?

PRESIDENT: Mr. Krishna Aiyangar, the matter which apparently forms the cause of anxiety to all of you is not less a cause of grave anxiety to Government too. Yesterday I received, or rather, the Chief Secretary received, the following letter from the Division Assistant at Alleppey. It reads as follows:—

> "Sir, in confirming the under-noted telegram sent you yesterday evening, I have the honour to inform you that it was reported to me that the sea had receded for a considerable distance in the Alleppey Pier at about 10 A. M. on the 26th Karkadakam 1103. I visited the Pier in the evening and found that there was absolutely no water in the vicinity of the Pier for a distance of about half-a-mile to the west, from the western extremity of the Pier. The water to the South has gone off for a distance of about three or four miles, while the northern limit to which the water has receded is not perceptible to the naked eye. The Land all round the Pier is muddy, and to my mind, it seems that there is a fluid mud to a depth of 10 or 20 feet."

Upon receiving this I immediately sent an express wire to the Principal Port Officer which reads as follows:—

> "Please report fully regarding receding of the sea."

To that I have received no reply. In the meanwhile the Chief Engineer of the Cochin Harbour, Mr. Bristow, happened to be at Trivandrum and I sent him a copy of this letter for an expression of his opinion. Not anticipating that I would have to make an announcement here. I did not bring his letter with me here but I can tell you its substance. He had not heard anything about it. He did not believe it to be a case of recession of the sea because in that case recessions would have taken place at Quilon and Cochin also, which apparently is not the case. The first opinion he formed,of course, it is a tentative opinion, is not that the sea has receded but that the mud has surged up and displaced the sea which is therefore being pushed back from Alleppey. We cannot express any definite and final opinion about it till we receive further information. The report says it took place at about 10 o'clock in the morning on the 10th August. A letter written and posted to me on the 11th August from one of the European merchants there makes no mention of this phenomenon. So I am hoping against hope to hear the sea has come back to its normal position and that the mud had lost the battle.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR (*Nominated, Deputy President*): We had a similar experience 10 years back which lasted for about three days.

PRESIDENT: I expect to hear in the course of the day from the Principal Port Officer and if I do so I shall announce the position to you.

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